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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6781
INFO RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE
RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU 1395
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0318
RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN 0078
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 0218
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 0514
RUEHSQ/AMEMBASSY SKOPJE 0357
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 0221
RUEHTI/AMEMBASSY TIRANA 0245
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 1584
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0102
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 5049
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1667
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 003685

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TAGS: NATO MARR MOPS PREL TU AF

SUBJECT: ISAF CAVEATS: TURKEY NOT LETTING GO YET

REF: STATE 74035

Classified By: Pol-Mil Counselor Timothy A. Betts for reasons 1.4 (b) a
nd (d).

¶1. (SBU) We delivered reftel points to MFA Head of Section for NATO Affairs Ihsan Kiziltan on May 16. Kiziltan had no substantive reply, but said he would consult with the appropriate authorities.

¶2. (C) TGS/J3 Plans and Operations Chef MG Mehmet Eroz told us May 19 that Turkey's caveats were necessary due to ambiguity in the ISAF Operation Plan (OPLAN). Ankara interprets the OPLAN as contemplating two sets of forces in Afghanistan, one for security (OEF) and another for stability operations (ISAF). As an ISAF contributor, Turkey contributes to stability forces, but not security forces. This distinction was part of the reason for the GOT's caveats, such as the one saying Turkish forces won't be used to break up fighting parties (which only applies to "big groups," he added).

¶3. (C) According to Eroz, the OPLAN also provides for two types of reserves for each ISAF region: the region's own quick reaction force and, if that is inadequate, NATO's "strategic reserve." He maintained that it does not envisage forces from one region reinforcing units in another. As a soldier, he understood the need for the ISAF commander to have greater flexibility on the use of his/her forces, but Ankara remained "suspicious" of different interpretations of the OPLAN. He thought consultations between regional commands to come up with a common understanding of the OPLAN would help resolve this issue and clear the way for removal

of Turkey's caveats.

¶4. (C) We periodically follow up, but have yet to receive a formal response to our demarche from MFA. MFA officials say they are awaiting TGS's views. We will continue to press the case against caveats.

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